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Amendments to the claims

Claims 1-12 (cancelled).

13. (currently amended) A method for use in a system in a vehicle for maintaining components of the vehicle, the system including a display element, the method comprising:

determining a measure which indicates an extent of performance degradation of a vehicle component, which includes an engine, due to an operation of the vehicle, the measure being a function of at least a duration, wherein the duration includes a time during which the engine runs at a rate exceeding a predetermined rate;

adding the duration to a cumulative duration;

determining whether the cumulative duration exceeds a predetermined value;

providing an alert when the cumulative duration exceeds the predetermined value;

and

displaying a selectable option on the display element, a selection of the option causing information about the alert to be provided, thereby facilitating servicing of the vehicle component.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the ~~vehicle component~~ includes an engine rate at which the engine runs is measured by a tachometer.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~14~~ 13 wherein the ~~measure is also a function of a rate at which the engine runs~~ alert includes a visual indication.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 13 wherein the ~~duration includes a time during which the engine runs at a rate exceeding a predetermined rate~~ information

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concerns maintenance of the vehicle component.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 13 wherein the rate is a function of an RPM value.

18. (currently amended) A system for use in a vehicle for maintaining components of the vehicle, the system comprising:

a device for determining a measure which indicates an extent of performance degradation of a vehicle component, including an engine, due to an operation of the vehicle, the measure being a function of at least a duration, wherein the duration includes a measure of time during which the engine runs at a rate exceeding a predetermined rate, the duration being added to a cumulative duration;

an output element for providing an alert when the cumulative duration exceeds a predetermined value; and

a display element for displaying a selectable option thereon, a selection of the option causing information about the alert to be provided, thereby facilitating servicing of the vehicle component.

19. (currently amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the ~~vehicle component includes an engine~~ rate at which the engine runs is measured by a tachometer.

20. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 18 wherein the ~~measure concerns is also a function of a rate at which the engine runs~~ alert includes a visual indication.

21. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~20~~ 18 wherein the ~~duration includes a measure of time during which the engine runs at a rate exceeding a predetermined rate~~ information concerns maintenance of the vehicle component.

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22. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~20~~ 18 wherein the rate is a function of an RPM value.